



Town of Chatham

Office of the Selectmen

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - March 24, 2020

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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION POSTPONED

Pursuant to and in compliance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 39, Section 9, which authorizes a town by the vote of its board of selectmen to delay the annual town meeting, the Chatham Board of Selectmen voted on Monday March 23, 2020 to delay Chatham's Annual Town Meeting until a date to be determined before June 30, 2020. Town Counsel Patrick Costello advised the Board that this action was permissible under said statute and is consistent with legislation filed and emergency Orders issued by Governor Baker to address challenges to town governance resulting from COVID-19.

Additionally, pursuant to section 1 of Chapter 45 of the Acts of 2020, enacted on March 23, 2020, and in consideration of the state of emergency declared by the Governor, the Board also voted to postpone the Annual Town Election to a date before June 30, 2020. Prior to the May 14, 2020 Annual Election date, the Board, upon consultation with Town election officials and the Town Manager as to logistics and the feasibility of a rescheduled election date, will supplement and ratify this vote to establish a date certain for the postponed election.

The Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election were scheduled for May 11 and May 14, 2020, respectively. The Board of Selectmen took the necessary votes to close the Town Meeting Warrant and finalize the Town Election ballot at their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, March 23, 2020.

As provided in the Town's Home Rule Charter Annual Town Meeting warrants will be mailed to the household of each registered voter two weeks prior to the Meeting.

Town officials are urging everyone to take seriously the recommended steps of social distancing, limiting exposure to others, frequent handwashing, and proper respiratory etiquette to limit the spread of the COVID-19.

Any person who is experiencing symptoms such as a fever, and cough or difficulty breathing is encouraged to self-isolate and call your healthcare provider for medical advice. High risk individuals, including older adults, those with underlying medical conditions (heart or lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, weakened immune system, anyone who is pregnant), are urged to avoid others to the greatest extent possible.

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